

**Philippians 4: [10] But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.**

### 1. The Sensing of Paul's Need

10

Once more Paul is expressing thanks to the church at Philippi for the gifts they sent him.

Paul writes "*your care of me*", which expresses the mindfulness and concern Philippi had for Paul.

Paul says "*your care of me hath flourished again.*"

The word "*flourished*" is an agricultural term which means to sprout again, shoot up and grow green.

Philippi was a church that had supported Apostle Paul throughout the ministry.

Yet, there was a time that this support was hindered.

Not that Philippi had turned away from Paul, they still wanted, desired and longed to support Paul.

But Paul writes, "*but ye lacked opportunity.*"

Once Philippi found out that Paul was in a Roman prison, they sent gifts to Paul.

Philippi was a church that had a great sense and awareness of Paul's need.

**Philippians 4: [11] Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. [12] I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.**

### 2. The State of Paul's Satisfaction

11-12

Remember that Paul is writing from a Roman prison, yet he is content.

Paul says "*for I have learned*" to be content.

This learning to be content, came by Paul's experience of difficulties and hardships.

Jesus said in Luke 12:15 "*a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*"

The word "*content*" literally means independent of external circumstances.

The resources Paul needed were within him.

2Corinthians 3:5 says that "*our sufficiency is of God.*"

#### 1 Timothy 6:6-8

*[6] But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

*[7] For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

*[8] And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*

\* A cemetery in England has 2 grave markers for a man and wife.

Her's says "she died from want of things."

His says "he died trying to give them to her."

Paul's contentment came from who was living in him, Jesus!

Paul had learned to live from within. This living from within is living above our circumstances.

In Jesus, Paul had inner strength and peace.  
Whether you are rich or poor you can be a godly person.  
We must direct our focus on what God has blessed us with.  
We must disregard what we do not have.  
A person is truly wealthy if he or she has learned to be content.

In verse 12, Paul says that he knew how to be "**abased**."  
Abased means to be brought low or run low. It is a river running in a drought.  
Paul lived "abased" which simply means to live on little or by humble means and he was content.

Paul said that he also knew how to "**abound**."  
Abound means to overflow or exceed. It is a river overflowing its banks.  
Paul could live to "**abound**", without living in pride or in greed for more.  
Paul trusted Jesus in poverty and plenty.

In verse 11, Paul said he had "**learned**" and in verse 12 Paul said he "**knew**."  
Paul was aware that God was in full control of the circumstances of life.  
In verse 12, Paul said he had been "**instructed**."  
Paul had learned through instruction to accept the circumstances of life that God has appointed.  
In doing so Paul knew how to be full and be hungry without griping or grumbling.

#### **Philippians 4: [13] I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

### **3. The Strength For Any Task**

**13**

In this verse Paul acknowledges his own personal weakness.  
But Paul also acknowledges that through Christ he can do all things.

*Romans 8:37 we are more than conquerors through him that loved us*

*2 Corinthians 12:[10] Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

*Isaiah 40:[29] He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. [30] Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: [31] But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

*Ephesians 3: [20] Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

The word "strengtheneth" means to enable. It is a present participle which expresses and continuance.  
Thank God, through Jesus, the unable are enabled!

To the sinner, Christ gives forgiveness and salvation.  
To the ignorant, Christ gives wisdom.  
To the fearful, Christ gives courage.  
To the sick, Christ gives healing.  
To the poor, Christ gives provision.  
Thank God, the ability of Christ knows no inability.  
The power of Christ overcomes all weakness.

**Philippians 4: [14] Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. [15] Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. [16] For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. [17] Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. [18] But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. [19] But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

#### **4. The Supply For All Our Needs                      14-19**

Paul says to the church at Philippi, "*ye have done well.*"  
In other words, their sacrificial gifts were a beautiful thing.

Paul says "*Ye did communicate with me affliction.*"  
The word "communicate" is a word that means sharing, partnering and participating.  
The church had partnered with Paul in support and service.

\* David Livingstone was a missionary to Africa. There came to him a Scottish woman who gave him money in the amount of 30 pounds. She said "I want you to save yourself needless toil and exposure by hiring a competent servant who will go with you wherever you go and share your sacrifices and dangers." With this offering, Livingstone hired his faithful servant and friend Sebantino. Later on, in the heart of Africa, Livingstone was attacked by a lion. The bones on Livingstone's left arm were crushed. Sebantino, at the risk of his own life managed to save Livingstone. What would have happened to Livingstone had that Scottish woman not given to help? Many would have not hear the gospel. In verse 15, as Paul began in his missionary journey from Macedonia, only the church at Philippi helped. Paul says that "*no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving.*" "*Giving and receiving*" are business terms.  
Paul is literally saying that no church opened an account with Paul, but the church at Philippi. What happened to all of the other churches that had been established?

Only Philippi had a burden to partner with Paul in credit and debits of spiritual service.

In verse 16, Paul says that the church at Philippi had sent help to Thessalonica once and again. The church at Philippi gave to Paul and received blessings for doing so.

In verse 17, Paul says that he never asked or begged for personal support.  
But Paul did "desire fruit that may abound to your account."  
This phrase is an investment term which speaks of a return on investment.  
Philippi would reap spiritual dividends and interest for their investment in the work of God.

In verse 18, Paul says "*I am full.*"  
Epaphroditus has delivered the gifts sent from Philippi to Paul.  
Paul is very thankful and wants this letter to serve as a receipt filled gratitude.  
Paul acknowledges that he has received all that was sent.  
This gift causes Paul to "abound" or to be overflowing with joy and material things.

Philippi had identified Paul's need, interested in Paul's labor, and they became involved in God's work.

Paul knew that their gift was a sacrifice and was well pleasing to God.  
For in giving to Paul, as God's man, they were giving to God.  
Gifts to the Lord's work are considered as an offering to God Himself.

Gifts as such are an "*odour of sweet smell.*"

When Noah gave an offering after he got off the ark and gave thanks:

***Genesis 8:21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour.***

When the priests offered unto the Lord the sacrifice:

***Exodus 29:18 it is a burnt offering unto the LORD: it is a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD.***

When Jesus was offered for our sins:

***Ephesians 5:2 as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.***

We must learn what we hold, withers. What we lay aside, spoils.

What we release and give, returns.

When we fill another's need, God fills our need.

\* Andrew Fuller was helping to raise funds for William Carey to go to India.

He asked a friend for a donation. The friend said "since it is for you Andrew I will give 5 pounds."

Fuller said "If you are giving it to me, I must refuse."

The friend got the point and replied "Here, take 10 pounds, since it is for the Lord."

***Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.***

In verse 19, Paul says for your gift to provide to me "***My God shall supply all your need.***"

God will not be out-given. He will reward the giver.

DL Moody said of this promise, this is God's Check.

My God-	The name of the firm printed on the check
Shall Supply-	The promise to pay.
All Your Need-	The amount.
According to His riches-	The account from which the check is drawn.
In Glory-	The address of the bank.
By Christ Jesus-	The signature which appears on the check.

## **A. The Source of Supply**

***My God.***

When no one else can, God can!

His resources are inexhaustible and immeasurable.

## **B. The Sureness of Supply**

***Shall Supply***

When you can't meet your need- He shall.

When others do not come to your aid- He shall.

He supplied the 3 Hebrew children, Daniel in the lions den and Abraham when he offered up Isaac.

## C. The Sufficiency of Supply

*All Your Need.*

## D. The Standard of Supply

*According to his riches in glory, by Christ Jesus.*

### **2Kings 4:1-7**

*[1] Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.*

*[2] And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.*

*[3] Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.*

*[4] And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.*

*[5] So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.*

*[6] And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.*

*[7] Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.*

**Philippians 4: [20] Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. [21] Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you. [22] All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household. [23] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**

## 5. The Salute To The Saints

**20-23**

Paul wanted God to be glorified.

God used Paul to reach many in the household of the Roman Emperor, Caesar.

Paul was chained to at least one soldier 24 hours a day.

The guard would change every 6 hours and Paul saw at least 4 soldiers per day.

7 days a week for 2 years, Paul would have witnessed to almost 3,000 soldiers.

No doubt many were saved of the Roman soldiers.

The gospel has no boundaries.

Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

Paul concludes the letter to the church at Philippi with, "*the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen*" This letter began with the grace of God and ends with the grace of God.

In fact the Christian life began with the grace of God and will conclude on earth with the grace of God.